

## PROCESS FOR REVIEW OF NEW OR EMERGING AREAS OF PHYSICAL THERAPIST PRACTICE

Inquiries about whether a new or emerging area of practice is part of the physical therapist scope of practice may arise from internal or external sources. APTA will consider these issues for possible inclusion in the professional scope of physical therapist practice using the following process:

1. When APTA determines that a new or emerging area of practice needs to be reviewed, staff will:
  - a. Notify the APTA Board of Directors (Board) via updates that a scope of practice review is in process.
  - b. Review and prepare a written summary of relevant APTA documents including positions, standards, guidelines, policies and procedures, educational preparation, state practice acts, etc.
  - c. Conduct and summarize a literature search for evidence relative to the new or emerging area of practice.
2. A staff-selected scientific review work group analyzes the available evidence provided by staff and makes a recommendation as to whether the evidence is sufficient for additional consideration.
  - a. If evidence is not supportive of additional consideration, the Board will be informed of that decision and provided a copy of the research report.
  - b. If evidence is supportive of additional consideration, the new or emerging area of practice is referred to a staff-selected practice review work group.
3. A staff-selected practice review work group evaluates the report from the scientific review work group. The practice review work group formulates a draft summary report that may consider the following aspects, as appropriate:
  - a. Background of the emerging practice area
  - b. Outline of how and why the emerging practice is utilized
  - c. Description of the role of the emerging practice area in physical therapist practice including what competencies may be needed to practice it safely
  - d. Other relevant considerations
  - e. Data gathered by additional consultation with relevant stakeholders may be considered for the report.

The summary report includes the research report and indicates a recommendation for placement of the emerging practice area in the *Guide to Physical Therapist Practice*. Staff prepares a report to the Board about possible inclusion in scope of practice.
4. The Board reviews the staff report to ensure that the process for review of new or emerging areas of practice as outlined above was followed.
  - a. The Board accepts or rejects the report.
  - b. If accepted, the summary report will be forwarded to the Clinical Practice Department for incorporation into appropriate APTA documents and resources.